REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	17 July 1997
Name of applicant/court:	The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Chinatown Cinema Ltd
Title of Publication:	Jin Pin Mei
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Tan Jui-Ming
Producer:	Hsu An-Chin
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Film 35mm
Country of Origin:	Taiwan
Language:	Chinese (English subtitles)

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Jin Pin Mei	Running time:	94.49
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	94.49

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has not been given.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The 35mm film entitled *Jin Pin Mei* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The publication is a Chinese language Taiwanese feature film which is set in an unspecified historical period. The publication promotes and supports the use of violence and coercion to compel persons to submit to sexual conduct.

The feature is about a young female named Chinny and her involvement with a political official, Simon Hsin. Simon Hsin spends his time pursuing women and engaging them in sexual activity. In the course of the feature he twice rapes Chinny, and rapes a maid, Chunmei. Chinny is raped a third time by a male who coerces her with a letter of hers which he has acquired. Between these scenes Simon Hsin is shown spending time at a brothel and pursuing the wife of a friend. In relating the success of this affair to Chinny, Simon Hsin tells Chinny that of the many types of women in the world there are two most desirable to men, those whom men like to rape and those who rape men.

The scenes of rape are presented in a sexually titillating manner. The scenarios are presented in detail and the sexual activity is focused upon in a sustained manner. The women plead with the male not to continue the activity and this is equally focused upon. In one scene Chinny is raped while tied to a frame, after having been whipped. In addition to these particular scenes the narrative as a whole supports the view that rape is a legitimate sexual experience and that women are sexual physical objects to be utilised by men for amusement and pleasure.

By presenting scenes of rape for the purpose of sexual titillation and as legitimate sexual encounters, and by supporting this in the theme, the publication promotes and supports the use of violence and coercion to compel persons to submit to sexual conduct.

Consideration is given to the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act). Because the publication promotes and supports the use of violence and coercion to compel persons to submit to sexual conduct, s3(2)(b) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act) is applied to this publication. This FVPC Act provision overrides s14 of the NZBR Act because it is a deeming provision which cannot be given a meaning that is consistent with the rights and freedoms contained in the NZBR Act.

OFLC Ref: 9700704